

Message Text

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PAGE 01 NEW DE 17674 121832Z
ACTION NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SS-15 SSO-00 NEAE-00 A-01 /027 W
-----019438 121842Z /45-40

P 121308Z DEC 77
FM AMEMBASSY NEW DELHI
TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 7932

C O N F I D E N T I A L NEW DELHI 17674

NEA/INS FOR LANDE

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: OVIP (CARTER, JIMMY)
SUBJECT: PRESIDENTIAL VISIT: READING SUGGESTIONS

1. AS REQUESTED AND DISCUSSED DURING YOUR VISIT HERE, LIST OF SUGGESTED READINGS FOR USE IN CONNECTION WITH PRESIDENTIAL VISIT FOLLOWS. AS RECOMMENDED, LIST HAS BEEN COMPILED WITH VIEW TO PROVIDING THE HIGHLY INTELLIGENT BUT LAY READER WITH SOME IDEA OF THE MAJOR CHARACTERISTICS AND VALUES OF INDIAN CIVILIZATION. NEEDLESS TO SAY, NO ONE COMPACT SET OF READINGS CAN ACCOMPLISH THIS GOAL IN MORE THAN A SKETCHY WAY. HOWEVER, ALL THOSE CONSULTED IN COMPILING THIS LIST AGREE THAT THE FIRST THREE SELECTIONS ESPECIALLY ARE THE MOST APPROPRIATE. THEY ARE AT THE SAME TIME FULL OF INFORMATION, EVOCATIVE AND READABLE.

2. BEGIN LIST:

A. THE DISCOVERY OF INDIA BY JAWAHARLAL NEHRU ASEA PUBLISHING HOUSE, 1961. COMBINES MUCH HISTORICAL INFORMATION WITH NEHRU'S OWN THOUGHTFUL INSIGHTS INTO THE MEANING OF INDIAN CIVILIZATION, PAST AND PRESENT. WRITTEN LARGELY WHILE NEHRU WAS IMPRISONED. THIS VISION PROBABLY CAN BE SAID TO HAVE DOMINATED POST-INDEPENDENCE INDIAN NATIONALISM.
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A BIT LONG TO BE READ IN ENTIRETY. WE SUGGEST THE READER CONCENTRATE ON THE FOLLOWING SECTIONS, AND, IF TIME ALLOWS, SKIM THE REST:

CHAPTERS 3 AND 4 -- ENTIRE;
CHAPTER 5 -- FOLLOWING SECTIONS:
INDIA'S URGE TO FREEDOM

PROGRESS VS. SECURITY
EFFECTS OF BUDDHISM ON HINDUISM
HOW DID HINDUISM ABSORB BUDDHISM IN INDIA
THE INDIAN PHILOSOPHICAL APPROACH
OLD INDIAN ART
GROWTH AND DECAY;

CHAPTER 6 -- FOLLOWING SECTIONS:
THE INDIAN SOCIAL STRUCTURE. IMPORTANCE OF THE GROUP
THE THEORY AND PRACTICE OF CASTE. THE JOINT FAMILY
DEVELOPMENT OF A COMMON CULTURE;

CHAPTER 7 -- ENTIRE;

CHAPTER 8 -- FOLLOWING SECTIONS:
NATIONALISM AND IMPERIALISM
HELPLESSNESS OF THE MIDDLE CLASS
GANDHI COMES
THE CONGRESS BECOMES A DYNAMIC ORGANIZATION UNDER GANDHI'S
LEADERSHIP
THE CONGRESS AND INDUSTRY: BIG INDUSTRY VS COTTAGE INDUSTRY

B. PUNJABI CENTURY 1857-1947 BY PRAKASH TANDON. ORIGINALLY
PUBLISHED BY CHATTO AND WINDHUS, LONDON, 1961, BUT REPUBLISHED,
WE BELIEVE, BY UNIVERSITY OF CAL. PRESS IN PAPER. A SENSITIVE
ACCOUNT BY THE FORMER CHAIRMAN OF HINDUSTHAN LEVER OF HIS
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FAMILY'S FORTUNES AND HIS OWN BOYHOOD DURING THE FORMATIVE
PERIOD OF INDIAN NATIONALISM. BRINGS FORTH MANY OF THE SOCIAL
AND CULTURAL INFLUENCES WHICH HAVE SHAPED THE VALUES OF INDIA'S
MODERNIZING ELITE.

C. THE REMEMBERED VILLAGE BY M.N. SHRINIVAS. OXFORD UNIVERSITY
PRESS, 1976. PROFESSOR SRINIVAS IS AN ANTHROPOLOGIST OF INTER-
NATIONAL REPUTE. THIS PORTRAYAL OF LIFE IN A SOUTH INDIAN
VILLAGE, BASED ON HIS MEMORY OF FIELD WORK THERE (BECAUSE HIS
FIELD NOTES WERE BURNED IN A FIRE AT STANFORD UNIVERSITY),
REACHES FAR BEYOND THE REALM OF SOCIAL SCIENCE. IT IS CLEAR,
DIRECT AND FREE OF JARGON, AND CONVEYS THE SPIRIT AS WELL AS
THE LETTER OF VILLAGE LIFE IN FULL AND SYMPATHETIC TERMS.
WE RECOMMEND ESPECIALLY THE FOLLOWING SELECTIONS: CHAPTERS II
AND III, PAGES 11-101 IN THE HARDBOUND VERSION.

D. THE HINDU VIEW OF LIFE BY S. RADHAKRISHNAN. PUBLISHED BY
OXFORD UNIVERSITY PRESS IN THE U.S. A REMARKABLE ESSAY
BY A FORMER PRESIDENT OF INDIA WHO WAS ALSO A RENOWNED
PHILOSOPHER. AS CLEAR AND SENSITIVE AN ENTREE TO THIS
DIFFICULT SUBJECT AS EXISTS. TO BE READ IN ENTIRETY.

E. TRADITIONAL INFLUENCES ON THE THOUGHT OF MAHATMA GANDHI
BY A.L. BASHAM, IN ESSAYS ON GANDHIAN POLITICS EDITED BY
RAVINDAR KUMAR AND PUBLISHED BY OXFORD UNIVERSITY PRESS
IN 1971. SHOWS CLEARLY THE ROOTS OF GANDHIAN POLITICS IN
TRADITIONAL VALUES, AND, AT THE SAME TIME, HOW GANDHI
TRANSFORMED THESE TO MEET MODERN NEEDS. TO BE READ IN
ENTIRETY.

3. THE ABOVE READINGS ARE LISTED IN A LOOSE RANK ORDER, THOUGH
WE BELIEVE THE VALUE OF EACH IS ENHANCED BY THE OTHERS. IT
WOULD BE BETTER IF THEY WERE READ TOGETHER. WE WOULD ALSO
SUGGEST THAT, IF THERE IS TIME, THE READER LOOK THROUGH
A.L. BASHAM'S THE WONDER THAT WAS INDIA. THE EXCELLENT PLATES
AND CONVENIENT ORGANIZATION OF THIS VOLUME WOULD HELP TO GIVE
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SUBSTANCE TO ONE'S IMPRESSIONS OF INDIAN HISTORY AND
CULTURE.
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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01-Jan-1994 12:00:00 am
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: n/a
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Sent Date: 12-Dec-1977 12:00:00 am
Decaption Date: 01-Jan-1960 12:00:00 am
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 22 May 2009
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1977NEWDE17674
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Expiration:
Film Number: D770462-0259
Format: TEL
From: NEW DELHI
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1977/newtext/t19771266/aaaacdztel
Line Count: 139
Litigation Code IDs:
Litigation Codes:
Litigation History:
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Message ID: c7883806-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Office: ACTION NEA
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 3
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: n/a
Retention: 0
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 31-Mar-2005 12:00:00 am
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review Media Identifier:
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
SAS ID: 271456
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: PRESIDENTIAL VISIT: READING SUGGESTIONS
TAGS: OVIP, (CARTER, JIMMY)
To: STATE
Type: TE
vdkgvwkey: odbc://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/c7883806-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Review Markings:
Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
22 May 2009
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 22 May 2009